DC #2
DIRECT CURRENTS
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**PLUS . . .**
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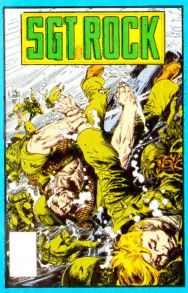


Cover Of The Month
**SGT. ROCK #422**

# INTRODUCING ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601...AND SUPERMAN TWICE-MONTHLY

In June of 1938 the premiere issue of **ACTION COMICS** made comics history when it introduced the world to **SUPERMAN**. Now, fifty years and 600 issues later, ACTION COMICS once again makes history as it undergoes a minor change of name and a major change of format to debut as **ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601**.

Now, ACTION COMICS WEEKLY will be on sale each and every week, featuring 48 pages of all-new story and art. SUPERMAN will still be there, in a weekly spot written by Roger Stern and pencilled by Curt Swan, but he's going to be joined by a host of DC characters, each starring in their own weekly features.

Leading off the ACTION COMICS WEEKLY line-up are **GREEN LANTERN**, written by Jim Owsley with art by Gil Kane; **DEADMAN**, written by Mike Baron and pencilled by Dan Jurgens; **THE SECRET SIX**, written by Martin Pasko, with art by Dan Spiegle; **WILD DOG**, written by Max Allan Collins, with art by Terry Beatty and Jon Nyberg; and **BLACKHAWK**, written by Mike Grell, with art by Rick Burchett and Mark Farmer. Dave Gibbons supplies the cover for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601.

But the action doesn't end there, because as features begun now in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY wind up their storylines in the weeks and months to come, they will be rotated with two additional new continuing features and occassional one-shot special stories.

You're probably thinking that the change in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY leaves **THE MAN OF STEEL** one book short every month, but we've taken care of that by increasing the frequency of **SUPERMAN** from monthly to semi-monthly.

Now writer and penciller John Byrne, with inkers Karl Kesel and John Beatty, will present two issues of SUPERMAN a month, beginning with SUPERMAN #19 and SUPERMAN #20. Considering he's got to deal with losing his super-powers, the

mystery of Supergirl, teaming up with The Doom Patrol, and the assorted villainies of Psi-Phon, Lex Luthor, and Metallo, even two issues may not be quite enough this month. And, of course, there's also the regular monthly **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN**, written by John Byrne and Jerry Ordway, with art by Ordway.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, SUPERMAN, and THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ... three titles that have just become *seven* great invitations to adventure.

## THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE IN A LIMITED HARDCOVER EDITION

The two book Prestige Format mini-series THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE chronicled the timeline of the DC Universe from the instant of its birth to today. Now DC re-presents this epic saga in **THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE HARDCOVER LIMITED EDITION**, reprinting the original 96-page story in its entirety and featuring 32 all-new pages of story and art, including a spectacular three-page gatefold jam poster.

THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE HARDCOVER LIMITED EDITION is 128 pages, featuring all of Marv Wolfman, George Pérez, and Karl Kesel's story, plus special features, including essays on various aspects of the DC Universe by Neal Adams, Ramona Fradon, Bob Kane, Jack Kirby, Joe Kubert, Paul Levitz, George Perez, Julius Schwartz, Jerry Siegel, Roy Thomas, and Len Wein. Illustrations accompanying the essays include a rare SUPERMAN sketch by Joe Shuster, and works by Steve Bissette and John Totleben, Ramona Fradon, Jack Kirby and Steve Rude, Joe Kubert, Steve Lightle, Frank Miller, George Pérez, Kurt Schaffenberger, and Dick Sprang.

There's also an introduction by HISTORY writer Marv Wolfman and an afterword by Frank Miller, as well as the aforementioned three-page gatefold poster—a jam effort featuring more than fifty DC characters as drawn by more than fifty superstar artists. Plus, each copy of THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE HARDCOVER LIMITED EDITION contains a special silver-plated HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE cloisonne pin, available only with this very special edition.

THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE HARDCOVER LIMITED EDITION . . . the definitive history of our universe just got better.

## FROM OUT OF MILLENNIUM ... MANHUNTER

**MILLENNIUM** introduced the world to the dawn of a new age . . . *and* gave the Earth a host of new heroes to protect it as it heads into the coming millennium.

Now the first of these heroes begins his own continuing series in **MANHUNTER**.

You've met Mark Shaw in MILLENNIUM and SUICIDE SQUAD ... but you don't know even half his story yet. His amazing stories began years ago, when he underwent the grueling training of the MANHUNTERS, sworn enemies of the MILLENNIUM and the future of mankind. He's rediscovered the power of the MANHUNTER training and, now on his own, he's got big plans for putting them to use. *His* way.

Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with pencils and cover by Doug Rice, MANHUNTER is the ongoing series about a man who hunts the world's most dangerous game . . . for a price.

MANHUNTER . . . the incredible saga of the MILLENNIUM *continues*.

**Paul Kupperberg, Writer**
**Peggy May, Editor**
**Julia Sabbagh, Designer**

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# THE BATMAN, THE JOKER ... AND THE KILLING JOKE

For years, **BATMAN'S** deadliest foe has been **THE JOKER**, the mad Clown Prince of Crime . . . and you knew as well as BATMAN that sooner or later, the time would come when these arch-enemies would finally meet in a life and death struggle which only one of them could survive.

That time is *now*. The place where it happens is **BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE Prestige Format** tale. *This* time, THE JOKER is striking at the Darknight Detective through his closest friend and ally, **COMMISSIONER GORDON** and his family, with a brutal attack on GORDON'S niece, Barbara, as THE JOKER claims the Gotham

police commissioner as a pawn in a complex and terrifying battle of wits calculated to drive GORDON to join THE JOKER in his insanity and draw THE BATMAN into a deadly trap.

The action is non-stop . . . the terror most real . . . and for the first time, we look into the dark and mysterious past of THE JOKER to discover what turned a decent, hardworking family man into the figure of insanity incarnate. It's the definitive tale of THE JOKER . . . a story of action, horror, and insight into one of DC's most enduring and evil of villains.

BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE is the long-awaited BATMAN graphic novel by two of Britain's most outstanding comic book talents, Alan Moore, the award-winning writer of *Watchmen* and *Swamp Thing*, and the breathtaking artistry of Brian Bolland (of *Camelot 3000* and *Judge Dredd* fame) and features full-processed color by *Watchmen* colorist, John Higgins.

BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE . . . find out why you'll never be comfortable laughing again.

# FROM • THE EDITOR

Working at DC Comics is everything you can imagine—and more. I work right across the hall from Julius Schwartz, who calls himself The Living Legend. (He keeps Tootsie Rolls in his office, so I visit there often.) And I've had the privilege of working with John Byrne, Frank Miller, Howard Chaykin, Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons, and a cast of hundreds. You know something? They're just regular guys.

But trying to coordinate things with them: that's another story.

And that was the task of Bob Chapman, who heads up Graphitti Designs in California. Graphitti brings you those nifty, high-quality T-shirts and those cloisonne pins you see in your comic stores. Graphitti has also brought you limited edition hardcover books.

This month, Graphitti is producing DC's HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE hardcover limited edition. I know, I know—you've been hearing about this book for months and don't believe it really exists. Well, it does. And it's really incredible. There's a "jam" fold-out that includes artwork from 54 people. Bob had to get all of those people to agree to do the artwork—a feat in itself—and then ship one piece of paper back and forth among all 54 contributors. (Do you think a piece of paper can accumulate frequent flyer mileage?)

Fairly frequently, Bob Chapman's dulcet tones would come across the long distance phone lines. "It's not lost. Really it's not. It's just that this one guy put it aside to work on later and then his studio partner moved it. And, well, now it's on its way back to me so I can ship it to the next person, who just moved his studio . . ." Sort of sounds like the excuses I used when I didn't have my homework done, only in Bob's case, I know *he* wasn't making up stories.

Somehow, HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE limited edition all came together. 10,000 lucky people will have a copy of this truly exceptional book. And me? I'll get a bottle of Corona Extra beer from Bob. He sends me one every year on my birthday. What a guy.

There's a lot of other exciting news this month, but Julia Sabbagh (the designer of DIRECT CURRENTS and lots of other DC Comics stuff) tells me that there's only so much room in this column. If I write too much, she has to make the type so small that you'll need a magnifying glass to read it. Hmmmmm. That's not a bad idea. Maybe next month we'll have DC Comics magnifying glasses on the schedule. Then, I could have included a few paragraphs on what it's like to coordinate all the people working on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. (Hats off to Mike Gold!)

See ya,

Peggy

## BOOKS SHIPPING MARCH 8

**HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE**
**Limited Hardcover Edition**

## BOOKS SHIPPING MARCH 15

**CHECKMATE #4**
A Knight abroad, backed by all the resources Checkmate has to offer . . . all to protect the life of one man loose in the canals of Venice. Plus, Part 1 of 3 of the making of a Knight, as a Pawn is left to fend for himself against unknown foes on the streets of a Pennsylvania steel town. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with an art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. *New Format.*

**CINDER AND ASHE #3**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
The truth about Lacey has finally come out, and now Cinder needs Ashe more than ever to help her cope with the deadly reality of their lives. Written by Gerry Conway, with art and cover by Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

**CINDER AND ASHE #3**

**CRIMSON AVENGER #2**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
Death stalks the Crimson aboard a crowded train as he heads west, one step ahead of the authorities, to stop the menace of the Dark Cross. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and cover by Greg Brooks.

**FIRESTORM THE NUCLEAR MAN #73**
Battling the rage within himself, Firestorm must also deal with Stalnoivolk and the Zuggernaut as Soyez swings into full action at last. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Joe Brozowski and Sam De La Rosa. Cover by Brozowski.

**FLASH #14**
Ever have one of those days? Wally West has. He's been ruined in the stock market crash, his neighbors are up in arms against him, and he's about to join the ranks of the Velocijunkies hooked on Velocity 9. Written by Mike Baron, with art and cover by Mike Collins and Larry Mahlstedt.

**JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #15**
Manga Khan's about the only menace on Earth who can get the League to join forces with the Rocket Red Brigade. Plus—the return of Gnort. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Steve Leialoha and Al Gordon. Cover by Leialoha.

**MANHUNTER #1**
From the pages of MILLENNIUM comes . . . Manhunter. Mark Shaw rediscovers the power of his Manhunter training and now he stalks the world's most dangerous game . . . for a price. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Doug Rice and Sam Kieth. Cover by Rice.

**OUTCASTS #10**
*(of a 12-issue maxi-series)*
B.D. and his substitute Outcasts inspire Kaine Salinger to re-join the fight against Boss Angel and Orcom when they brave the wilds of Suicide Park for the good of the cause. Written by John Wagner and Alan Grant, with art by Cam Kennedy and Steve Montano. Cover by Kennedy. *Deluxe Format.*

**TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS #91**
The Titans wrap up the Holy War they've been waging against Brother Blood. The final issue of the series. Written by Marv Wolfman and Paul Levitz, with art by Eduardo Barreto and Romeo Tanghal. *(Originally presented in THE NEW TEEN TITANS #31).*

**WONDER WOMAN #18**
Diana becomes the victim of terrifying creatures of the night. Who is the mysterious mistress who commands them? Written and pencilled by George Pérez and inked by Bob Smith. PLUS: DC BONUS BOOK #4, featuring the new wave of DC talent. The startling origin of one of the Amazons is revealed in "Awakening" by writer Dan Littleford and artist Palmer Worley. Cover by Pérez.

**WORLD OF SMALLVILLE #4**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
Lana Lang leaves Smallville behind to travel to Metropolis in search of the Clark Kent she knew as a girl. Will she like what she finds? Written by John Byrne, with art by Kurt Schaffenberger and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Byrne and Alcala.

**YOUNG ALL-STARS #14**
Fury against the awesome power of the Ultra-Humanite. Which one will survive? The story continues in YOUNG ALL-STARS ANNUAL #1 later this month. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Howard Simpson and Malcolm Jones. *New Format.*

## BOOK SHIPPING MARCH 22

**BATGIRL SPECIAL #1**
Batgirl's final case as she goes after Cormorant, the man who "killed" her once. But is it a case of justice, or an obsessive desire for revenge? This one-shot special issue is written by Barbara Randall and pencilled by Barry Kitson.

**THE BATMAN #421**
The Batman knows the identity of the person who's been murdering women on the streets of Gotham, and there's nothing he can do about it. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Dick Giordano and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Giordano.

**THE FOREVER PEOPLE #6**
*(of a 6-issue mini-series)*
Revealed at last—the untold story of the Forever People. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Paris Cullins and Karl Kesel. *New Format.*

**GREEN ARROW #6**
The gang wars in the streets of Seattle rage on while Green Arrow investigates a series of brutal attacks on the gay community. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano. Cover by Grell and Hannigan. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

**WORLD OF SMALLVILLE #4**

**HELLBLAZER #7**
The Damnation Army is on the march against the Resurrection Crusade . . . with John Constantine caught in the middle. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by John Ridgway. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

**INFINITY, INC. #52**
Skyman is dead and the Infinitors are out for the blood of Injustice, Unlimited, but the bad guys have a new mem-

ber on their team . . . Solomon Grundy. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Mike Bair, Lou Manna, and Bob Downs. Cover by Bair. *Deluxe Format.*

**JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL #2**

If you thought life was dangerous for members of the JLI *in* costume, wait till you see what happens to them in their not-so-quiet private lives. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Bill Willingham and Mark Farmer. Cover by Willingham.

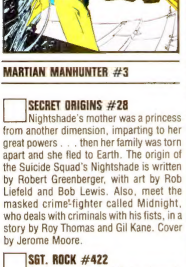
**THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #48**

The other Legionnaires begin to weed out the conspirators as Brainiac 5's plan results in disaster. Part 3 of 5 parts. Written by Paul Levitz, with art by Greg LaRocque, Pat Broderick, and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Ken Steacy. *Deluxe Format.*

**MARTIAN MANHUNTER #3**

*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*

Dr. Erdel, the man who brought J'Onn J'Onzz to Earth, returns to fight alongside the Martian Manhunter against the Death God. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Mark Badger. *New Format.*



MARTIAN MANHUNTER #3

**SECRET ORIGINS #28**

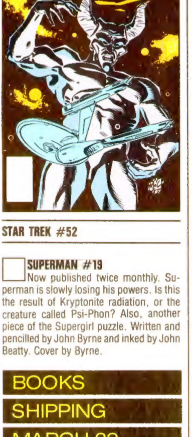
Nightshade's mother was a princess from another dimension, imparting to her great powers . . . then her family was torn apart and she fled to Earth. The origin of the Suicide Squad's Nightshade is written by Robert Greenberger, with art by Rob Liefeld and Bob Lewis. Also, meet the masked crime²-fighter called Midnight, who deals with criminals with his fists, in a story by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane. Cover by Jerome Moore.

**SGT. ROCK #422**

Rock is captured while he attempts to thwart the assassination of General Eisenhower. Written by Robert Kanigher, with layouts, partial pencils, and cover by Joe Kubert, finished art by Andy Kubert and Adam Kubert.

**STAR TREK #52**

A trip down to the bowels of the *Enterprise* is usually a simple enough affair . . . but now Kirk has to make the journey despite the telepathic terrors of an ill crewman. Written by Peter David with art by Tom Sutton and Ricardo Villagran.



STAR TREK #52

**SUPERMAN #13**

Now published twice monthly, Superman is slowly losing his powers. Is this the result of Kryptonite radiation, or the creature called Psi-Phon? Also, another piece of the Supergirl puzzle. Written and pencilled by John Byrne and inked by John Beatty. Cover by Byrne.

BOOKS SHIPPING MARCH 29

**ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #442**

The Man of Steel versus Dreadnaught, who seems to possess all of Superman's missing powers. Guest-starring the JLI, plus more on Psi-Phon and the evil machinations of Luthor. Written by John Byrne and Jerry Ordway, with art by Ordway and Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway.

**THE BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE Prestige Format Novel**

The Joker's on the loose, and this time, he's not only insane . . . he's *mad*. The target of his wrath is the sanity and soul of the Batman's closest friend, Commissioner Gordon. This graphically-depicted tale of action, horror, and insight was written by Alan Moore, with art and cover by Brian Bolland.

**THE DOOM PATROL #10**

Cliff Steele keeps a supply of spare parts on hand for his robot body . . . now Superman's foe, Metallo, is looking to stock up on them for his own use. Part 1 of 2, concluding next week in SUPERMAN #20. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Erik Larsen and Gary Martin. Cover by Larsen and Jerry Ordway.

**FLASH GORDON #2**

*(of a 9-issue maxi-series)*

Flash has been consigned to the dreaded Pits of Doom. Can even he escape the deadliest trap of the ruthless Ming the Merciless? Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Bruce Patterson. Cover by Jurgens and Patterson. *New Format.*

FLASH GORDON #2

**THE NEW TEEN TITANS #45**

Dial "D" for Death as Vicki dials backwards, becoming a variety of supervillains out to kill Chris King. Can the Titans save him? Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Eduardo Barreto and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Barreto. *Deluxe Format.*

**THE SHADOW #12**

Meet Ma Finn . . . the deadliest mother of them all. How deadly is she? Deadly enough to kill one of the Shadow's agents. Written by Andrew Helfer, with art and cover by Kyle Baker. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

**SILVERBLADE #11**

*(of a 12-issue maxi-series)*

Their reality has been warped and their lives ravaged, and the friends of Jonathan Lord need to find the one star in Hollywood that can make Silverblade rise again. Written by Cary Bates, with art and cover by Gene Colan and Steve Mitchell. *New Format.*

**SWAMP THING #74**

What is it about Abby that's standing in the way of the birth of the *new* Swamp Thing? Written and pencilled by Rick Veitch and inked by Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Veitch and Tom Yeates. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

**WARLORD #130**

The population of an entire island in Skartaris hangs in the balance as the Warlord and Maddox finally face off to the death. Part 2 of 3. Written by Michael

Fleisher, with art and cover by Jan Duursema.

**THE WEIRD #4**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
Superman and Infinity, Inc.'s Nuklon are possessed as they face the might of the Justice League and the Weird in a final showdown. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Berni Wrightson and Dan Green. Cover by Wrightson.

THE WEIRD #4

**WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #4**
*(of a 7-issue maxi-series)*
Tour a number of the member worlds of the United Planets and peruse listings of more than 30 Legionnaires and associates, from Lightning Lad to Mon-El. Written by Barbara Randall, with art by Steve Lightle and others. Cover by Lightle.

**WRATH OF THE SPECTRE #3**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
The reprinting of the Spectre's chilling series from ADVENTURE COMICS continues with four more tales written by Michael Fleisher with art by Jim Aparo and Ernie Chan. Wraparound cover by Aparo. *Deluxe Format.*

**YOUNG ALL-STARS ANNUAL #1**
It takes the entire All-Star Squadron to go up against Mekanique . . . and then some. The story continues in INFINITY, INC. ANNUAL #2. Plus, a look at the private life and sorrows of Dyna-Mite. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Mike Gustovich and others. *New Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING APRIL 5

**ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601**
Now appearing weekly, featuring a host of DC super-stars, including Superman by Roger Stern and penciller Curt Swan, Green Lantern by Jim Owsley and Gil Kane, Deadman by Mike Baron and penciller Dan Jurgens, The Secret Six by Martin Pasko and Dan Spiegle, Wild Dog by Max Allan Collins, Terry Beatty, and Jon Nyberg, and Blackhawk by Mike Grell, Rick Burchett, and Mark Farmer. Cover by Dave Gibbons.

**CAPTAIN ATOM #17**
Captain Atom and Red Tornado have picked the wrong swamp for their all-out battle: this one is Swamp Thing's turf. Written by Cary Bates, with art by Pat Broderick and Bob Smith. Cover by Broderick.

**DETECTIVE COMICS #588**
Life is never easy for the derelicts on Gotham's skid row, but now it's gotten even tougher as a crazed killer, sought by the Batman, stalks the streets. Written by John Wagner and Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle.

**INFINITY, INC. ANNUAL #2**
Continued from YOUNG ALL-STARS ANNUAL #1, the Infinitors are out to stop Mekanique from exacting her revenge upon the entire world with Degaton at her side. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas. Also, a look at the private life of Wildcat. *Deluxe Format.*

**JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL Postcards**
Now DC's most popular super-group is fit for collecting or mailing in this series of fifteen full-color postcards. Kevin Maguire is the penciller on this collectors' series, featuring fourteen individual JLI member cards and a postcard-size reproduction of the popular promotional poster.

**THE PHANTOM #3**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
It's parallel mysteries as the modern-day Phantom finds Chessman in Manhattan and his ancestor, the 13th Phantom, tracks down those responsible for his own torment. Written by Peter David, with art by Joe Orlando and Dennis Janke. Cover by Orlando and Dave Gibbons. *New Format.*

**POWER GIRL #2**
*(of a 4-issue mini-series)*
Power Girl's life goes from bad to worse as the insidious Weaver increases the mystical havoc complicating her life. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Rick Hoberg and Arne Starr. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Dick Giordano.

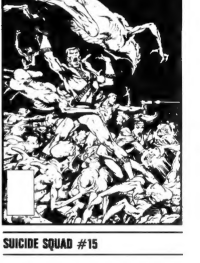
**THE QUESTION #18**
The Question continues his adventures in Seattle, alongside that city's resident hero, Green Arrow, and together they storm a ski lodge to stop a terrorist arms shipment. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. Cover by Cowan and Bill Sienkiewicz. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

**SONIC DISRUPTORS #7**
*(of a 12-issue maxi-series)*
It's all "Just Another Brick" as the rock 'n' roll revolution reaches critical mass and the army is forced to the wall. Written by Mike Baron, with art and cover by Barry Crain and Jon Nyberg. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

**THE SPECTRE #16**
The police have a very unlikely "likely" suspect in their murder investigation . . . Jim Corrigan. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Chris Wozniak. *New Format.*

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION #6** *(of a 6-issue mini-series)*
As the new *Enterprise* discovers a virtual paradise in space, Data reveals a secret which could plunge its society into a bloody civil war. Written by Mike Carlin, with art by Pablo Marcos, Carlos Garzon, and Arne Starr. Cover by Marcos and Garzon.

**SUICIDE SQUAD #15**
There's more trouble brewing in Washington . . . and that's the *best* news the Squad's heard all day. It's the death of the Enchantress and the change in Nightshade's brother that's really got them down. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Luke McDonnell and Bob Lewis. Cover by Jerry Bingham.



SUICIDE SQUAD #15

**SUPERMAN #20**
Metallo wants his Kryptonite heart back and he's willing to pit his robot army against Superman *and* the Doom Patrol to get it. Part 2 of 2, continued from THE DOOM PATROL #10. Written and pencilled by John Byrne and inked by Karl Kesel. Cover by Byrne.

**THE WANDERERS #2**
Threats from within and without may make this new team's first mission turn out to be their last. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella. Cover by Ken Steacy. *New Format.*

**WASTELAND #8**
Dark horror and black humor . . . it's hard to tell the difference in the Wasteland. Stories by John Ostrander and Del Close, with art by Donald Simpson, William Messner-Loebs, and introducing new contributing artist Tom Artis. Cover by David Lloyd. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

# people at WORK

## Mike Baron

Mike Baron is not your run-of-the-mill comic book writer. Ever since he first burst onto the scene in 1981 with the publication of Capital Comics' *Nexus*, Mike has continued to amaze both readers and his fellow professionals alike with a continuous string of innovative concepts and startling characterizations in such works as *Badger, The World of Ginger Fox, The Punisher*, and, for DC Comics, FLASH and SONIC DISRUPTORS, as well as other work for Comico, and Kitchen Sink's *Death Rattle*. And, beginning this month in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601, Mike, along with penciller Dan Jurgens, will add the new Deadman series to his already impressive list of credits.

Mike was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1949. "I come out of journalism," Mike said. "Before I got into comics, I was a reporter for a weekly paper in Boston. But what I really always wanted to write was fiction. Well, comics are fiction, so I went in that direction. There's a lot you can do with characters in comics that you can't get away with in regular books."

Considering his strange and varied background, Deadman was a natural assignment for Mike when the character was chosen to appear in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. Deadman, the story of circus aerialist Boston Brand shot down by a mysterious assassin and given the opportunity to remain on Earth as a spirit charged with fighting evil, first appeared in STRANGE ADVENTURES #205 in 1967. With the second story, Neal Adams began drawing and, eventually, writing the series and, while the series did not last beyond issue #216, Deadman did attract a strong but loyal following, including many writers and artists at DC who conspired to keep Deadman "alive" in guest appearances across the line, culminating in the DEADMAN mini-series two years ago.

When asked about his latest creative charge, Mike said, "Deadman's an interesting character to deal with. I mean, he's dead, you know? I won't exactly be following what's gone on before. I'm trying to explore the philosophical ramifications of a guy who's dead. Deadman's been given the opportunity, as a ghost, to explore human behavior from a detached point of view, without being involved. But, of course, he is involved, jumping inside peoples' bodies and taking over.

"It took me about four issues to really find out where Deadman is going," Mike continues. "But now we've got him in a situation where he's inadvertantly released Satan on Earth. This tragedy takes place in Washington, D.C. and Satan has pretty much the same powers as Deadman, to inhabit the bodies of living people. Deadman ends up inhabiting the body of the director of the C.I.A. and searching for Satan at a gala Washington party for the Soviet premier . . . and that's where the fun begins.

"He gets caught up in the old conundrum. He's been charged by Rama Kushna with striking a balance between good and evil, and the only way he's got to do that is by possessing people's bodies. He finds himself C.I.A. director, making policy of major importance without really understanding what he's doing, so this spiritually-directed fighter for good winds up a figure of considerable power who's co-opted by that power, doing inadvertent evil."

Mike laughs, adding, "I don't want to give you the impression it's going to be all philosophical and grim. Matter of fact, Deadman's also pretty funny, though not in a slapstick bellylaugh sort of way. I'll be following this serious thread, but the strain of humor is going to come out of the humor inherent in the situation and because of the humor in the human condition.

"I'm also having fun with fact that Deadman's kind of the link between the worlds of the living and the dead. We're going to be seeing a much larger cast of dead people."

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**Remember all those great DC Comics books we told you about in DIRECT CURRENTS #1? Well, inadvertently, the shipping dates in the listings section were, well, somewhat out of order. Our apologies for the error. The correct shipping schedule is as follows:**

**Books Shipping February 9**

CHECKMATE #3
CINDER AND ASHE #2
CRIMSON AVENGER #1
FIRESTORM THE NUCLEAR MAN #72
FLASH #13
JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #14
OUTCASTS #9
TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS #90
WONDER WOMAN #17
WORLD OF SMALLVILLE #3

**Books Shipping February 16**

BATMAN #420
THE FOREVER PEOPLE #5
GREEN ARROW #5
HELLBLAZER #6
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #47
MARTIAN MANHUNTER #2
SECRET ORIGINS #27
SILVERBLADE #10
STAR TREK #51
SUPERMAN #18
YOUNG ALL-STARS #13

**Books Shipping February 23**

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #441
DOOM PATROL #9
FLASH GORDON #1
INFINITY, INC. #51
THE NEW TEEN TITANS #44
THE SHADOW #11
SWAMP THING #73
THE WEIRD #3
WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #3
THE WRATH OF THE SPECTRE #2

**Books Shipping March 1**

BATMAN: Year One Hardcover Edition
CAPTAIN ATOM #16
POWER GIRL #1
THE SPECTRE #15
SUICIDE SQUAD #14
WASTELAND #7

**Books Shipping March 8**

AQUAMAN SPECIAL #1
DETECTIVE COMICS #587
THE PHANTOM #2
THE QUESTION #17
SONIC DISRUPTORS #7
STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION #5
WANDERERS #1

# MANHUNTERS

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of ADVENTURE COMICS #73 (1942), in which the Manhunter origin first appeared.